

## Preface

Reports of tuberculosis (TB) cases are submitted to the Division of TB Elimination (DTBE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by 59 reporting areas (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and six other jurisdictions in the Pacific and Caribbean). In January 1993, DTBE, in conjunction with state and local health departments, implemented an expanded TB surveillance system. The expanded system collects additional information for each reported TB case in order to better monitor trends in TB, including drug-resistant TB, in the United States. A software package (SURVS-TB) for data entry, analysis, and transmission of case reports to CDC was designed and implemented as part of the expanded TB surveillance system. In 1998, the Tuberculosis Information Management System (TIMS) replaced SURVS-TB.

This publication, *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2003*, presents summary data for TB cases reported to DTBE during 2003. It is similar to previous publications (see page 6, #19) and contains six major sections. The first section presents trends in the overall TB case counts and case rates by selected demographic and clinical characteristics. The second section presents overall case counts and case rates for the United States by selected demographic characteristics for 2003. In the third section, TB case counts and case rates are presented by state and other jurisdictions with tables of selected demographic and

clinical characteristics. In the fourth section, data collected as part of the expanded system (e.g., initial drug resistance, HIV status) are presented by reporting area. The fifth section provides TB case counts and case rates by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs: see Technical Notes, page 9, for further details) with tables of selected demographic and clinical characteristics. Finally, the sixth section presents figures from the annual surveillance slide set, which emphasize key recent trends in TB epidemiology in the United States. The slides with accompanying text can also be viewed and downloaded from the Division home page which is accessible via the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/>.

To help interpret the data, an Executive Commentary (page 3) and Technical Notes (page 9) have been included. In addition, the current case definition (*MMWR* 1997;46 [No. RR 10]:40-41) and “Recommendations for Counting Reported Tuberculosis Cases” are provided in Appendices A and B, respectively (page 85). The recommendations for counting TB cases, which update the January 1977 recommendations, were first published in *Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 1996*.

We will continue to adapt and improve this publication to better monitor trends in TB in the United States. Comments and suggestions that may assist us in this process will be greatly appreciated.